

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Living Conditions for Apprentices in State Labor Reserve Hostels	DATE DISTR.	3 November 1955
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1. After they leave school, apprentices in all branches of industry and in the public transport concerns are obliged, even if employed near their own homes, to live in hostels of the State Labor Reserves (SPZ), or in the case of some of the larger concerns, in the hostels of these concerns. These latter hostels are also the responsibility of the State Labor Reserves.
2. The hostels, which are usually in former country houses, are run on military lines with the apprentices organized into platoons and sections, the former commanded by political instructors, the latter by the more promising apprentices. Sleeping accommodation consists of dormitories for 10 or 15 boys under the charge of a senior apprentice, and discipline relating to reveille, lights out, political classes, and mealtimes is strictly enforced.
3. Apprentices receive political indoctrination for half an hour every morning before going to work and additional two-hour periods in the evenings three times a week. Every hostel has its own branch of the Czechoslovak Youth Organization (CSM), of which all apprentices are automatically members.
4. Hostel managements formerly obtained from the authorities an allowance of 13.50 crowns per day per head. Breakfast consisted of white coffee, bread, and a piece of fat bacon or sausage. There was a mid-morning snack consisting of salami or milk. Lunch consisted of soup and meat every day, and supper consisted of soup and meat every day. The food in general was sufficient and of good quality. However, on 1 February 1955 the food allowance was reduced from 13.50 crowns to 9.60 crowns. The result of this was that the morning snack was cut out; twice a week there was a meatless meal; and on Sundays only a light cold supper was served. This caused discontent among the apprentices, as the boys were hungry and had to send home for supplementary food parcels. They complained to the hostel manager who told them he could do nothing and that they would have to be prepared for further cuts in their food from 1 September 1955, when the allowance would be reduced to 7.50 crowns per head per day. He added that the Government was considering whether parents should be obliged to contribute 2.10 crowns daily or whether help should be provided in some other form. Out of their monthly wages, apprentices have to pay for their own breakages (crockery, windows, etc.).

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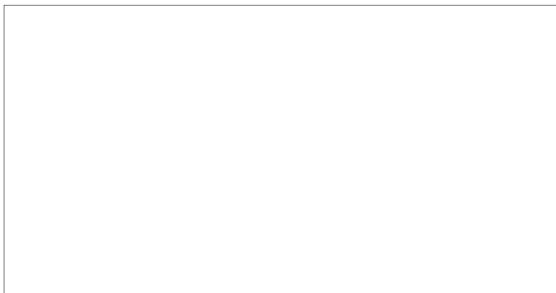
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5. Every hostel has its culture room with library, games, and movies, and apprentices are not usually free to visit the local town except on Saturday evenings or Sunday afternoons. Once or twice a month they may get permission to spend a weekend at home.



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